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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/393,482	
	Filing Date	September 10, 1999	
	First Named Inventor	Jerry Chisnell	
	Group Art Unit	3627	
	Examiner Name	Teri Luu	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	FTP139B US

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
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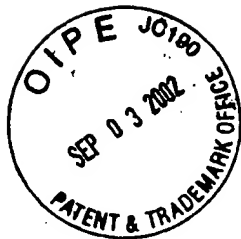
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Remy J. VanOphem
Signature	
Date	August 23, 2002

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9/19/02

**PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No. 09/393,482 Group Art Unit No. 3627
Filing Date: September 10, 1999 Examiner: Teri Luu
Inventor: Jerry Chisnell
Title: REINFORCEMENT FOR A HOSE COUPLING

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

To highlight the distinction of the above referenced invention over the prior art as interpreted by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 24, 2002, Paper No. 18, no amendments were made to the claims or specification and the undersigned offers the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 11 and 12 and dependent Claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Joseph et al., U.S. Patent 5,387,016. The undersigned attorney respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of the following argument.

The test for determining if a reference anticipates a claim, for purposes of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is whether the reference discloses all the elements of